THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): No revival strategy has so far been prepared by the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL). However, the Board of Directors of the CCL in their meeting held on 17.2.99 have considered following measures for improving the financial position and coal production of the company:--

(i) Consolidation of the capacity of the washeries of CCL for washing of 7 million tonnes of raw coking coal per year.

(ii) Washing of non-coking coal through the washeries at Kargali, Gidi and Piparwar to achieve reduction of the ash content of washed non-coking coal to 18.5%.

(iii) Increasing production level substantially at the end of IX and X Plan periods by developing the coal reserves within CCL command area having high extraction potential.

Pithead stock of coal of MCL

1556. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present pithead stock of Coal of Mahanadi Coalfieds Ltd. (MCL);

(b) whether the pithead stock of Coal of MCL has been increasing; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken to reduce the pithead stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The pithead stock of coal in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) as on 1.3.99 is 39.27 lakh tonnes (Provisional).

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, MCL produces mostly power grade coal which is suitable for power generation. The stock with MCL has increased from 22.92 lakh tonnes on 1.4.98 to 39.27 lakh tonnes on 1.3.99 because of poor off-take of coal by the power houses linked to Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL).

The Coal Company is trying to increase the offtake of coal to non-core sector consumers, seasonal consumers like brick kiln industries and sales of coal through the Liberalised Sales Scheme (LSS).

साउथ ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लि॰ में औषधालय भवन

1557. **श्री लक्खीराम अग्रवाल:** क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या मध्य प्रदेश में साउथ ईस्टर्न कोलफील्ड्स लि॰, बिलासपुर में किसी औषधालय भवन का निर्माण किया गया है; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) इस निर्माण कार्य पर कुल कितनी लागत आई है; और

(ग) इस औषधालय के कब से कार्यकरण प्रारंभ करने की संभावना है?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप राय): (क) से (ग) कोल इंडिया लि॰ द्वारा दी गई सूचना के अनुसार साउथ ईस्टर्न कालफील्ड्स लि॰ द्वारा बिलासपुर (मध्य प्रदेश) में एक 200 बिस्तरों वाला बहु-विशेषता प्राप्त अस्पताल निर्माणाधीन है। जनवरी, 1999 तक इस अस्पताल पर 16.09 करोड़ रु॰ व्यय हुआ है। परियोजना को पूरा करने के लिए एक संशोधित लागत अनुमान तैयार किया जा रहा है।

Supply of Coal to Railways, Power, Steel, Cement Plants in Bihar

1558. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the annual requirement of coal by the Power Plants, Steel Plants, Cement Plants, in Bihar, and the Railways during the last two years;

(b) the total quantity of coal supplied to these sectors during the said years;

(c) whether it is a fact that these sectors are not supplied coal in sufficient quantity as per their demand;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to supply coal to all of them in the State as per their requirement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) (a) and (b) The demand for coal is assessed sector-wise for the whole financial year and not State-wise. However, the requirement of power, steel and cement sectors in the State of Bihar as derived from the linkages and programmes during the last two years and supplies made to these sectors as per the information available with CIL are given as below:—

(In '000 tonnes)
(Data provisional)

	Power		Steel		Cement	
	96-97	97-98	96-97	97-98	96-97	97-98
Linkages/Programmes	9466	12855	5860	4567	299	309
Supplies	9278	9342	4184	4262	187	207

Coal requirement of Railways are decided by the Chief Mining Adviser, Railway Board, Dhanbad on all India basis and the supplies made to Railways are being distributed to their own consuming sectors by themselves. The requirement of Railways is showing a downward trend. 0.13 mt. and 0.05 mt. coal was supplied to Railways durign 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively for their all India consumption.

(c) and (d) The sector-wise demand and supply position of coal shows some gap. The reasons for the same are as follows:—

(i) There is no dearth of coal for power sector. However, because of less off-take by power houses there has been less supply of coal in comparison to linkage. Sometimes coal supply is restricted due to non payment.

(ii) Though there is no shortage of coal for cement plants, due to general recession in the economy they have restricted the off-take.

(iii) Integrated steel plants need high grade coking coal. Domestic production is not adequate to meet their demand of coking coal of high specification. They are importing low ash coking coal for the purpose of mixing with the indigenous coal.

(e) Coal companies are fully capable to meet the requirement of power and cement sectors in the State of Bihar. Regular liasion is being maintained with individual consumers and Railways to ensure adequate off-take of coal. As regards supply of washed coal to the steel sector, indigenous coal is being washed to meet their requirement. However, a portion is also met by the units importing coking coal.

Mining rights to Nippon Denro Ispat Ltd.

1559. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nippon Denro Ispat Limited group has been given Mining rights near Bhadravati Ordnance Factory in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any irregularities has been noticed by Government in the allotment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The rights for mining of coal anywhere in the country are given to a company through grant of a coal mining lease by the concerned State Government. As per the provisions of Section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act (MMRD Act), 1957, a coal mining lease can be granted by the concerned State Government only with the previous approval of the Central Government. No previous approval of the Central Government under Section 5(1) of the MMRD Act, 1957 has no far been given to the proposal of Government of Maharashtra to grant a coal mining lease to M/s Central India Coal Company Limited (CICCO), a company promoted by M/s Ispat Industries Limited (formerly known as M/s Nippon Denro Ispat Limited) to mine coal near ordnance factory, Chanda in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra for supply of coal on exclusive basis to the proposed Bhadravati Thermal Power Project. Therefore, no coal mining lease has so far been granted to M/s CICCO for the purpose by Government of Maharashtra and consequently no coal mining rights have been given to the company.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of the answer given to Part (a) of the question.